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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-21. (canceled)

22. (new) A method to correct inoperability between elements of a computer system, the method comprising:

identifying a first product, manufactured in a first, earlier, non-upgraded, configuration and a second, later, upgraded, configuration by a first supplier;

identifying a second product, available from a second supplier, independent from the first supplier, and comprising a software package specifying operability thereof with the second configuration and inoperability with the first configuration;

testing the second product to discover a basis of operability thereof with the first configuration;

defining the basis, the basis comprising at least one of a new software product distinct from the second product, an alternative configuration of the second product, a hardware manipulation of the first product, and a hardware exchange of at least one component of the first product; and

disclosing to at least one of the first and second suppliers the operability of the second product with the first configuration.

23. (new) The method of claim 22, further comprising offering the basis to at least one of the first supplier, the second supplier, and the public.

24. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein offering comprises presenting at least one of an offer to license to a product embodying the basis and an offer to sell a product embodying the basis.
25. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein disclosing comprises disclosing privately.
26. (new) The method of claim 25, wherein testing is performed by an independent entity, independent from the first and second suppliers.
27. (new) The method of claim 26, wherein disclosing is performed by the independent entity.
28. (new) The method of claim 27, further comprising disclosing to the public the existence of operability of the second product with the first configuration.
29. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein disclosing comprises disclosing privately.
30. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein testing is performed by an independent entity, independent from the second supplier.
31. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein disclosing is performed by an independent entity independent from the second supplier.

32. (new) The method of claim 22, further comprising disclosing publicly the existence of operability of the second product with the first configuration.

33. (new) A method to correct inoperability between elements of a computer system, the method comprising:

identifying a first product having a legacy configuration and an upgraded configuration, released after the legacy configuration, the legacy and upgraded configurations being provided by a first supplier;

identifying a second product comprising a software package specifying operability with the upgraded configuration and inoperability with the legacy configuration;

obtaining access to the legacy configuration;

obtaining use of the second product;

testing the second product to discover a basis of operability thereof with the legacy configuration; and

communicating to the second supplier the existence of the basis of operability;

requesting of the second supplier to take a specified action to remedy the inoperability.

34. (new) The method of claim 33, wherein testing is performed by an independent entity, independent from the second supplier.

35. (new) The method of claim 34, wherein communicating is performed by the independent entity.

36. (new) The method of claim 35, wherein the specified action comprises effecting operability of the second product with the legacy configuration.

37. (new) The method of claim 36, further comprising failing, by the second supplier, to take the specified action.

38. (new) The method of claim 37, further comprising providing, by the independent entity to the second supplier, a motivation to take the specified action.

39. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein the motivation comprises:
identifying a legal remedy available to at least one of the independent entity, the public, and a purchaser of the second product; and
taking steps toward implementing the legal remedy against the second supplier.